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Atty. Dkt. No. 051841-0108

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuya SHIBAYAMA
Title: STEERING COLUMN FOR A VEHICLE
Appl. No.: 10/623,690
Filing Date: 07/22/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3682

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.



RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to Applicant's attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached. All of the documents are in English.

Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention that US 5,802,221, cited in the European Search Report, was previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated on July 22, 2003.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

NOV 04 2004

Date _____

By _____

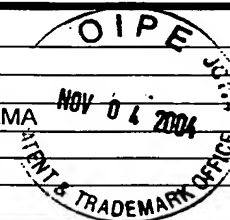
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Schwaab", written over a horizontal line.

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| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: NOV 04 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/623,690 |
| | | | | Filing Date | 07/22/2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Kazuya SHIBAYAMA |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 3682 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 051841-0108 |



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | A1 | EP | 1 251 057 | A2 | BAYER CORPORATION | 10-23-2002 | | |
| | A2 | EP | 0 335 397 | A2 | NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD. et al. | 10-04-1989 | | |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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